

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources

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October 29, 2008

Michael J. Iacopino Brennan Caron Lenehan & Iacopino 85 Brook Street Manchester, NH 03104

Re:

Application of Granite Reliable Power, LLC Site Evaluation Committee No. 2008-004

Progress Report

Dear Mr. Iacopino:

Thank you for the opportunity to report on the Granite Reliable Power application for the construction and operation of thirty-three wind turbines and associated facilities and roads located in central Coos County. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources has a responsibility to review the project under RSA 227 C:9 as well as under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As you may know, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires consideration of historic preservation in the multitude of Federal actions that take place nationwide. Section 106 requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on Federal projects prior to implementation. It is our understanding that the US Anny Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been designated the Lead Federal Agency for this undertaking.

The Division is working with the USACE and the project Applicant to develop the Area of Potential Effects (APE) along with a systematic survey of historic resources. Granite Reliable Power has caused to be conducted a variety of studies including a Phase Ia Archaeological Survey and the submission of a Project Area Form. The Project Area Form identified eight properties that warranted detailed studies and Individual Forms for these potentially historic standing buildings, structures and landscapes were completed. The DHR is waiting on final revisions to these forms before considering them complete.

As of this date, the following properties have been recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the purposes of this undertaking:

Colebrook:

1594 NH Route 26

1761 NH Route 26

Panorama Clubhouse & Golf Coarse

eligible under Criterion A (history)

eligible under Criterion C (architecture)

eligible under Criteria A and C

Dixville:

2 Valley Road

3 Valley Road

eligible under Criterion A eligible under Criterion A



Millsfield:

1372 Millsfield Pond Road

87 Pond Outlet Road

eligible under Criterion A

eligible under Criteria A and C

Odell:

Philips Pond, unnamed road

eligible under Criteria A and C

Section 106 requires the Lead Federal Agency to seek information, as appropriate, from consulting parties, and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the area, and to identify issues relating to the undertaking's potential effects on historic properties. The Division understands that Granite Reliable Power has provided information to the public on behalf of the USACE regarding the consulting party process and is in the process of identifying those groups that may have an interest in historic resources in the APE.

Because historic review is ongoing, the Division cannot concur with the Application that the Project is unlikely to have any adverse effect on any known historic resources. In addition, Appendix 12a of the Application is incomplete and does not include all resources identified within the project's APE (as listed above). The next step in our review process is to work with USACE and the Applicant to determine how historic properties might be affected and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce harm to historic properties. Ultimately, the goal will be to reach agreement on measures to deal with any adverse effects.

The Applicant must complete "Effect Tables" that will objectively determine the effect that the project will have on the above-listed historic resources. An effect may occur when there is alteration to the characteristics of a historic property qualifying it for inclusion in or eligible for the National Register as defined in Section 800.16(1). If Adverse Effects are determined, a Memorandum of Agreement will be necessary to outline a mitigation plan. The DHR will consult with the USACE and the project Applicant during this phase of the project.

At this point in time, the SEC Application does not contain sufficient information for the DHR to concur with the Application's findings under state or federal laws. As additional information is received, the Division looks forward to continuing consultation with the USACE and the Applicant as part of the ongoing historic review process to identify ways to reduce impacts to historic resources.

Sincercly,

Elizabeth H. Muzzey

Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

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ec:

Richard Roach-USACE